

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 69

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to give citizens of the United States the right to enact and repeal laws by voting on legislation in a national election.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 2010

Mr. HOEKSTRA introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to give citizens of the United States the right to enact and repeal laws by voting on legislation in a national election.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein),* That the fol-
4 lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-
5 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
6 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
7 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several

1 States within seven years after the date of its submission
2 for ratification:

3 “ARTICLE —

4 “SECTION 1. The people shall have the right to enact
5 any law which the Congress has authority to pass, and
6 to repeal any provision of law passed by Congress which
7 has become law, except that the people shall not have the
8 right to declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal,
9 make rules concerning captures on land and water, or call
10 forth the militia.

11 “SECTION 2. A petition proposing the enactment of
12 a law, or the repeal of a provision of law, shall be sub-
13 mitted to an officer of the Government of the United
14 States whom the Congress shall designate by law. Each
15 petition shall contain the text of the proposed law, or, in
16 the case of a proposed repeal of a provision of law, the
17 text of the provision of law that shall cease to be effective
18 if repealed under this article. Each petition shall be signed
19 by at least 3 percent of the whole number of people, in
20 each of at least 10 States, who voted in the most recent
21 election for President, or for electors for President, occur-
22 ring before the date on which the petition is submitted
23 to the officer designated by Congress, and the total num-
24 ber of signatures on such petition shall be at least 3 per-
25 cent of the whole number of people, from all of the several

1 States, who voted in such election. All such signatures
2 shall be collected within the 18-month period ending on
3 the date the petition is submitted to the officer designated
4 by the Congress.

5 “Within 90 days after a petition is submitted to the
6 officer designated by the Congress, such officer shall de-
7 termine the validity of the signatures contained in the pe-
8 tition. If the petition contains the required number of valid
9 signatures, the officer shall certify the petition and shall
10 direct the chief executive officer in each State to place a
11 copy of the proposed law, or provision of law proposed to
12 be repealed, contained in the petition on the ballot in the
13 first election (other than an election to fill a vacancy) for
14 Members of the House of Representatives which is held
15 at least 120 days after such certification. The Congress
16 shall by law establish procedures for the preparation and
17 submission of any such petition and for the validation of
18 signatures on such petition.

19 “SECTION 3. If a law or repeal proposed under this
20 article receives a majority of the votes cast in three-fifths
21 of the several States, the proposed law or repeal shall be
22 introduced to the Congress by the Speaker of the House
23 of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the
24 Senate on the first day of the first session of Congress
25 following the vote.

1 “If Congress does not enact the proposed law or re-
 2 peal, without amendment, before the end of one year and
 3 90 days after the first day of the first session of Congress
 4 following the vote, the officer to whom the petition was
 5 submitted shall direct the chief executive officer in each
 6 State again to place a copy of the proposed law, or provi-
 7 sion of law proposed to be repealed, contained in the peti-
 8 tion, together with any amended version approved by Con-
 9 gress, on the ballot in the first election (other than an
 10 election to fill a vacancy) for Members of the House of
 11 Representatives which is held at least 120 days after such
 12 direction.

13 “If a law or repeal again placed on the ballot pursu-
 14 ant to this article receives a majority of the votes cast
 15 in three-fifths of the several States, the proposed law or
 16 repeal shall be enacted and take effect according to its
 17 terms.

18 “No law, or repeal of a provision of law, which is en-
 19 acted under this article shall be subject to approval of the
 20 President.

21 “The Congress may not, during the 2-year period be-
 22 ginning on the date on which a law enacted by the people
 23 under this article takes effect, or the date on which a law
 24 repealed by the people under this article ceases to be effec-
 25 tive, repeal or amend a law so enacted, or reenact any

1 part of a law so repealed, except by an affirmative vote
2 of two-thirds of the Members of each House of Congress.

3 “SECTION 4. The people in each State voting under
4 this article shall have the qualification requisite for elec-
5 tors of the most numerous branch of the State legislature.
6 The Congress shall by law prescribe the manner in which
7 the results of the voting conducted under this article shall
8 be ascertained and declared.”.

